BPL population issue of ration cards and distribution of subsidised foodgrains to the cardholders rests with the State Governments.

As per the report received from Government of Bihar, it is not correct to say that people living below poverty line arc not getting benefit under the PDS. The percentage lifting of BPL foodgrains (wheat and rice separately) during the last four years is as under:

Year	% of lifting against allocation of BPL Category	
	Rice	Wheat
1997-99	41.7	75.9
1998-99	55.1	86.2
1999-2000	52.6	93.1
2000-2001	16.40	34.40

(c) State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and make arrangement for distribution of the PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Failure of Antyodaya Scheme

*1225. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Ministcj of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Antyodaya Scheme announced by Government proved to be futile;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that its benefits are not being extended to the village level;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the main reasons behind the failure of the scheme have been the negligent attitude of the State Governments; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the States and persons to whom these benefits have been extended?

THE MINISTER' OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) So far, Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu after completion of the task of identification of the beneficiary families and issue of distinctive ration cards to them. The number of families covered in these States/UTs is 38,91,919. The task of identification and issue of distinctive ration cards to identified beneficiaries is under progress in other States/ UTs.

Free Mid-day meals in primary schools

†1226. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made arrangements to provide food items at subsidised rates at the fair price shops;

(b) if so, the details of the States and the persons covered under it;

(c) whether Government would also consider to provide free midday meals to the students in primary schools; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.